

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A continuous casting method for continuously manufacturing a metal cast member, [[by]] comprising:

~~driving a plurality of rotational molding members disposed so as to form a casting space in a state in which the plurality of rotational molding members are differentiated in temperature a casting wheel with a groove formed on an external peripheral surface thereof and an endless belt put on the casting wheel so as to close the groove in a direction of casting, wherein the casting wheel and the endless belt are differentiated in temperature therebetween by heating the endless belt to a temperature of [(melting point or liquidus-line temperature of the metal) x 0.35] or above before the endless belt starts to come into contact with molten metal and cooling the casting wheel.~~

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The continuous casting method as recited in claim [[2]] 1, wherein ~~a temperature of the endless belt the portion of one of the plurality of rotational molding members which starts to come into contact with the molten metal~~ is set to a temperature of [(melting point or liquidus temperature of the metal) x 0.5] or [[more]] above.

Claims 4-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): The continuous casting method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metal is aluminum or its alloy.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The continuous casting method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metal is copper or its alloy.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A cast member continuously cast by the method as recited in claim 1, wherein a final solidification portion is located within a depth from a surface of the cast member, the depth being [(thickness of the cast member) x 0.2] or less.

Claim 10 (original): The cast member as recited in claim 9, wherein a surface layer portion is removed from the cast member.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A metal worked article obtained by performing plastic working to the cast member as recited in claim 9.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A continuous casting apparatus, comprising:

a casting wheel with a groove formed on an external peripheral surface thereof and an endless belt put on the casting wheel so as to close the groove, the casting wheel and the endless belt being configured to driven in a direction of casting a plurality of rotational molding members disposed so as to form a casting space, the rotational molding members being driven in a direction of casting;

a heating device disposed ahead of a position where the endless belt starts to come into contact with molten metal, the heating device being which is configured to heat some of the rotational molding members the endless belt to a temperature of [(melting point or liquidus-line temperature of the metal] x 0.35) or above; and

a cooling device which is configured to cool the other of the rotational molding members the casting wheel.

Claim 13 (canceled)